

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02

SIL-01 OMB-01 /119 W

-----100358Z 004595 /20

R 091551Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5201

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CIEC, EGEN, ETRD, EFIN, EAID, ENRG, IT

SUBJ: ITALIAN EVALUATION OF CIEC: NOT DAMAGING

SUMMARY: TONE OF ITALIAN CIEC COVERAGE WAS UPBEAT AT BEGINNING OF CONFERENCE BUT GAVE WAY TO PESSIMISM AT THE END. NEVERTHE- LESS, FINAL EVALUATION WAS NOT RPT NOT COMPLETELY NEGATIVE. REPORTING OF CONFERENCE PROGRESS AND RESULTS, COVERED INSENSIVELY ONLY IN ECONOMIC-BUSINESS PRESS, WAS OBJECTIVE AND RELATIVELY UNIFORM, WITH PREDICABLE BUT ONLY MODERATE DIFFERENCES IN COVERAGE BY LEFTIST PRESS. INITIAL GOI EVALUATION STRESSED NEED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH DIALOGUE. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL ITALIAN MEDIA CARRIED RESULTS AND SOME BLOW-BY-BLOW

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OF RECENT CIEC CONFERENCE IN PARIS; MAJOR COVERAGE WAS PROVIDED BY ECONOMIC-BUSINESS PRESS (FOR INSTANCE, MILAN'S IL SOLE/ 24 ORE) AND MAJOR, NATIONALLY DISTRIBUTED PAPERS (I.E. CORRIERE DELLA SERA, LA STAMPA). COVERAGE WAS GENERALLY OBJECTIVE AND RELATIVELY UNIFORM IN TONE AND CONTENT. LEFTIST PRESS (COMMUNIST PARTY-PCI DAILY L'UNITA' AND SOCIALIST PARTY-PSI DAILY AVANTI) TOOK OCCASIONAL SWIPES AT U.S, BUT DIFFERENCES WITH OTHER

REPORTING WERE BOTH PREDICTABLE AND MINOR. RESERVED BUT SOMEWHAT UPBEAT TONE OF THE PRESS COVERAGE GRADUALLY GAVE WAY TO PESSIMISM DURING THE FINAL DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE. THE CONCLUSION MET WITH A DEFINITE SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT. MOST ANALYSIS EMPHASIZED THAT ENERGY PROBLEMS, WHICH PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR CIEC, ALSO CAUSED ITS FAILURE. NEVERTHELESS, THE FAILURE WAS NOT REGARDED AS AN OVERT "RUPTURE" BETWEEN THE DCS AND LDCS. RE CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE, THE PRESS EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE AND URGENTLY NEEDED.

2. PRESS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE CARTER-VANCE CIEC INITIATIVES WHICH PRESS VIEWED AS MARKED CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS, TOUGHER USG POSITIONS. COVERAGE OF FINAL WEEK BEGAN WITH EMPHASIS ON THE IMPROVING GENERAL CLIMATE FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO BOUMEDIENE. LEFTIST PRESS, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM FROM VERY BEGINNING, EMPHASIZING THAT POTENTIAL OPPOSITION FROM CONGRESS AND SHORT-SIGHTED LOBBYISTS COULD BLOCK IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESIDNET'S EFFORTS, EVEN IF THEY WERE SINCERE. ALSO, THE VANCE-YAMANI MEETING RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE IN THE PRESS GENERALLY, BOTH AS INDICATION OF AMERICAN SENSITIVITY TO THE SAUDI POSITION AND OF UNDERLYING EXTRANEIOUS CONSIDERATIONS (E.G. MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS).

3. LEFTIST PRESS ANALYSIS OF RESULTS EMPHASIZED LACK OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES, AND IN PARTICULAR LACK OF ANY RESOLUTION OF TWO BASIC PROBLEMS--PRICING OF RAW MATERIALS AND A MORATORIUM ON OUTSTANDING DEBTS. AVANTI PRAISED CANADIAN CANCELLATION OF DOLS 264 MILLION IN DEBT AND CRITICIZED USSR'S LACK OF AID TO THE THIRD WORLD. L'UNITA' CHARACTERIZED CIEC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESULTS AS A DEFEAT FOR THE CARTER FOREIGN POLICY BUT CITED APPROVINGLY BRZEZINSKI'S STATEMENT ON THE NEED FOR EAST-WEST COOPERATION TO RESOLVE FUNDAMENTAL NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEMS. L'UNITA' ALSO STATED THAT THE CONTINUED UNITY OF THE THIRD WORLD BLOCK, CONFRONTED WITH WESTERN ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE IT, WAS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE.

4. ON FAILURE TO ACHIEVE CONTINUING ENERGY DIALOGUE, ITALIAN PRESS GENERALLY CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT OF THE IDEA AND FOR EXCESSIVE SENSITIVITY TO THE SAUDI POSITION. BOTH L'UNITA' AND AVANTI TREATED THE SUGGESTION OF A SEPARATE ENERGY FORUM AS A WESTERN ATTEMPT TO CREATE INTERNAL DISSENTION AMONG THE LDCS, OR AT LEAST TO DEPRIVE THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF THEIR ONLY SIGNIFICANT BARGAINING LEVER.

5. INITIAL GOI REACTION, AS DESCRIBED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REP MIGLIUOLO TO ECOMIN DURING JUNE 6 MEETING, WAS THAT CIEC RESULTS WERE MORE POSITIVE THAN GENERALLY SET OUT IN THE PRESS AND IN ANY CASE WERE NOT DAMAGING TO INDUSTRIAL-

IZED COUNTRY INTERESTS. WHILE NOTING BENEFITS OF RESTRICTED MEMBERSHIP, NON-POLEMICAL DISCUSSIONS SUCH AS CIEC, MIGLIUOLO SAID THAT G-19 INABILITY TO SPEAK FOR G-77 HAD SHARPLY LIMITED ANY POSSIBILITY THAT MORE SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION COULD HAVE BEEN REACHED. NEXT STEP, ACCORDING TO MIGLIUOLO, WAS FOR G-8 TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS, PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IF WE WANTED TO PURSUE POSSIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONALIZING AN ENERGY DIALOGUE. IN HIS OPINION, MATTER COULD BE RAISED EITHER AT UPCOMING ECOSOC MEETING OR ALTERNATIVELY AT UNGA THIS FALL. HOLMES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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